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This fact sheet will...

- Update you on the status of the cleanup at the Sauget Area sites
- Inform you about an upcoming public meeting
- Provide you with names and numbers to call for more information about the site



Public Meeting

EPA is holding a public meeting to update the community on the status of the cleanup and answer questions about the sites.

Date: February 29, 2000

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Sauget Village Hall
2897 Fallings Springs Road
Sauget, Illinois

Investigation and Cleanup Continues at the Sauget Areas 1&2 Superfund Sites

St. Clair County, Illinois

February 2000

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently conducting investigations and cleanup work at the Sauget Areas 1 & 2 Superfund site near the villages of Sauget and Cahokia, in St. Clair



Figure 1. Drum and Soil Excavation from Area 2 (Site Q), Fall 1999

County, Illinois. This fact sheet will update you on the status of these activities at the site.

Background and History

Sauget Area 1

Area 1 consists of six disposal areas, also commonly referred to as "source areas," covering about 40 acres. It includes approximately 4 miles of contaminated creek sediments in Dead Creek. The disposal areas and Dead Creek are located in both Sauget and Cahokia.

The source areas were used for industrial and municipal disposal activities. These activities began in the 1930's for several manufacturing facilities and municipalities. Area 1 and Dead Creek are contaminated with a number of chemicals, including, volatiles and semivolatiles, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and metals such as arsenic, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, silver and zinc.

Sauget Area 2

Area 2 is made up of five source areas. The site covers approximately 344 acres of land, most of it in Sauget. All of Area 2 is located west of Illinois Route 3 and extends over to the bank of the Mississippi River.

Area 2 is very similar to Area 1 because the source areas were also used as disposal areas for several manufacturing facilities in the Sauget area. Contamination also includes PCBs, dioxins and metals. After the waters receded from the flooding in the summer of 1993, several drums were discovered



Figure 2. Excavated drums staged for off-site disposal

along the banks of the Mississippi River. Contents of the drums contained PCBs and other metals. A removal action soon followed, which removed several drums.

Current Status

Sauget Area 1

Currently, Solutia, Incorporated and its contractor have completed approximately 80% of all sampling at



Figure 3. Ecological Survey of Dead Creek, Fall 1999

the site, which includes groundwater, soil, waste, surface water, soil and air sampling. A draft engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) will be issued to EPA in March 2001 and a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) will follow in April 2001. Both documents will include a human health risk assessment and an ecological risk evaluation.

Sauget Area 2

Since late October 1999, EPA has removed over 2100 drums buried just below the surface and has shipped off over 7,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soils from one of the landfills (Site Q) next to the Mississippi River. EPA expects to end the removal action in late March or early April. EPA plans to conduct an RI/FS on all of Area 2 later this year. This area includes Sites Q, R, S, O, and P. EPA will sample soil, waste, surface water, sediments, and groundwater. In addition, EPA will conduct human health and ecological risk assessments before issuing an FS.

Flooding Issues

EPA issued a Unilateral Order to Solutia in June 1999 that required the company to complete an evaluation of Dead Creek, manage storm waters, and help alleviate the flooding problems on the Creek. Flooding could spread contamination into residential areas of Sauget and Cahokia. Solutia intends to comply with

the order, and work on this project should begin this spring. This work will likely include the replacement of some culverts on Dead Creek in the area of Cargill Road.




Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Compliant Cell

EPA is also working on another Unilateral Order that will require Solutia and other PRPs to remove sediments in Dead Creek from Queeny Avenue to Cargill Road. Approximately 50,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments (PCBs, heavy metals and some organic contaminants) will be removed, drained of any moisture, and then placed in an on-site TSCA compliant cell. The cell will be located north of Judith Lane along the west bank of Dead Creek and just south of Site G. The cell will actually straddle the border between Sauget and Cahokia. The cell will cover approximately 5 acres and will rise about 25 feet above the ground surface.



Figure 4. Computer image of the proposed TSCA Cell.

Although the cell will contain contaminated material, it will have the following safety controls:

-  ***None of the waste material will be buried beneath the current ground surface. The cell will be constructed above ground and will include compacted clay layers, drainage layers, and two layers of high density polyethylene (HDPE) to assure that the material does not leak out into the surrounding soil and groundwater.***
-  ***A protective cap will also be placed over the top of the deposited waste material that includes another layer of HDPE and drainage layers that will keep precipitation from moving through the cap into the deposited materials.***
-  ***The cell will include leak detection systems and groundwater monitoring. This will be a permanent disposal site that will be maintained by Solutia long into the future.***

EPA Wants to Hear From You...

During the next several weeks EPA would like to schedule community interviews with the residents of Sauget and Cahokia to find out what concerns and questions you have about the sites. This information would help EPA in not only knowing what the community concerns are but also documenting them in what is called a Community Involvement Plan (CIP). The CIP will serve as a document containing concerns and issues residents have about the site; information on past, current and future activities on the site, and lists of local, state, and federal contacts. The CIP will then be placed in the local information repository (the address of the repository is on the back page of this fact sheet). A letter will be sent to you during the first week of March 2000 requesting your participation in the interviews.

Work on the cell may begin as early as this spring.

For Additional Information.

If you have questions about the information in this fact sheet, the upcoming public meeting, or the Sauget Sites, please write or call the contacts listed below.

U.S. EPA Contacts

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Sauget Areas 1 & 2 Superfund Site information is available for review at the information repository at:

Cahokia Public Library
140 Cahokia Ave.
Cahokia, IL 62206
(618) 332-1491

Site documents are also available for review in the U.S. EPA Records Center (7th Floor) in Chicago, Illinois.



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